GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5877
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
CLINTON`S PAK VISIT
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the statement of General Musharraf that Clinton stop over in Pakistan justifies latter`s stand on Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Government is aware of the attempts by the military regime in Pakistan to portray President Clinton`s stopover in Islamabad as a justification of its stand on Kashmir.

(b) It is not for Government to comment on how the military regime in Pakistan interprets international diplomatic contacts, including that with the US. The US has stated that the purpose of President Clinton`s stopover in Islamabad was to seek, among other things, an early return to democracy, a crackdown on terrorist groups and a real effort to create the conditions for dialogue with India. During his visit to India, President Clinton stated that the US will not mediate on Kashmir.